

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2002

Attendees:

Ken Currey	Greg Gnesios	Bob Silbernagel	Jim Majors
Art Donoho	Warren Gore	Russ Walker	Catherine Robertson
John Foster	Joe Keys	Clare Bastable	Jane Ross
Doralyn Genova	Dan Rosenthal	Terry Gray	

Doug Hall was not present for this kick-off meeting of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Advisory Council (CCNCA) meeting.

Greetings, Introductions, and Ground Rules

Nancy Terrill, meeting facilitator from the Civic Forum, reviewed the agenda (see attachment) and went over the ground rules:

- 1) One person may talk at a time;
- 2) Respect each other;
- 3) Confine comments to issues, not people;
- 4) Everyone is to participate.

Greg Gnesios (CCNCA Manager) introduced himself, other Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Planning Team members that were present, and the Advisory Council.

BLM Overview

Greg stated expectations for this meeting, including a budget review and the formation of planning work groups, which must begin working as soon as possible as the deadline for completing the CCNCA Resource Management Plan (RMP) is October 2003.

Jane Ross (CCNCA Planning and Environmental Coordinator) reviewed the contents of the folders provided to the Advisory Council by the BLM. Included were a map of the CCNCA, a timeline for the CCNCA Resource Management Plan showing Advisory Council meetings, a listing of the BLM Interdisciplinary Team that is working on the CCNCA plan, a list of previous planning efforts in the CCNCA, the Record of Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Ruby Canyon Black Ridge Integrated Resource Management Plan (March 1998), a copy of Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-008 "Interim Guidance for National Conservation Areas and National Monuments," a copy of Information Memorandum No. 2000-019 "Colorado State Director Guidance for Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area," and a glossary of terms and acronyms. Copies of each document were available to the public.

Jane then briefed the group on the status of the CCNCA Resource Management Plan and next steps in the planning process:

- The plan is technically still in the public scoping period while the Advisory Council begins meeting and organizes Working Groups.
- One of the first needs in the planning process is developing planning criteria—what can be done in the management plan and what cannot be done. This is being accomplished, but input from the Advisory council will also be considered.
- There are other plans in use in the NCA and the current plan should be consistent with those activity-level plans.
- The plan must identify a reasonable range of alternatives and analyze the potential impacts of those alternatives. The Working Groups will assist in developing alternatives.

The Working Groups, once formed, will meet outside of the Advisory Council meetings. It is understood that the Working Groups are not decision-making bodies, and they will report to the Advisory Council during the scheduled meetings of the full Advisory Council. BLM resource and activity specialists will be available to offer assistance to the Advisory Council, or to the Working Groups, for education, information, and for field trips.

Everyone is encouraged to read the Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Integrated Resource Management Plan.

Election of Chair(s)

There was a full discussion regarding who would like to be the Chair Person, and it was decided that we would have both a Chair and a Co-Chair. Warren Gore was voted in as CCNCA Advisory Council Chair, and Dan Rosenthal was voted in as the Co-Chair Person. Warren's leadership style is to keep the meetings moving forward in line with the agendas. To achieve this goal, the Working Groups must be productive. It was agreed that the meetings would continue to use a facilitator.

Discussion on Budget Resolution

Greg reviewed the 2002 budget summary. The Advisory Council determined that the budget will not meet the needs of the community and that the Advisory Council needs to agree to send a resolution to the Colorado Congressional Delegation requesting a larger budget. Catherine Robertson (BLM Grand Junction Field Manager) said that these budget issues are being reviewed in other states and now is the appropriate time to submit the resolution.

There was a discussion on how much of a budget increase to request. It was approved by vote within the Advisory Council to ask for an additional \$400,000 for this fiscal year and \$800,000 as a base amount for the future.

The Advisory Council agreed to put together the budget resolution and send copies to the Secretary of the Interior, the 3rd Congressional District, and all of the Colorado Congressional delegation.

Working Groups

The Advisory Council discussed the planning process and Working Groups. It was suggested that the CCNCA be broken into zones to facilitate planning and focus Working Groups (see attached map). After a discussion, the Advisory Council voted to define four (4) planning zones: Rabbit Valley Zone (north of the Colorado River, to the west), the Wilderness Zone (south of the river), the River Zone, and the Mack Ridge Zone (north of the river, to the east).

The Advisory Council and others attending signed up for Working Groups. The Advisory Council distributed themselves into the following Working Groups:

Rabbit Valley Zone: Bob Silbernagel, Ken Currey and Art Donoho

Mack Ridge Zone: Dan Rosenthal and John Foster

River Zone: Russ Walker and Doug Hall

Wilderness Zone: Doralyn Genova, Joe Keys and Warren Gore

Warren requested the BLM hold an Open House for the public, and it was agreed to hold it on February 28, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the BLM Conference Room. The Advisory Council and BLM specialists will attend. The goal of the Open House is to inform the public on current management of resources and encourage the public to join the Working Groups.

The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for March 14, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the White Hall Building.

Public Comments

Jim Majors, of the Quiet Trails Coalition, would like some of the areas to be designated as quiet areas.

Clare Bastable, of the Colorado Mountain Club, expressed her disappointment that no one from their club was chosen to be part of the Advisory Council. However, they are looking forward to participating in the Working Groups.

Terry Gray, an advocate for horsemen, looks forward to working with everyone and educating the public about taking care of our environment.

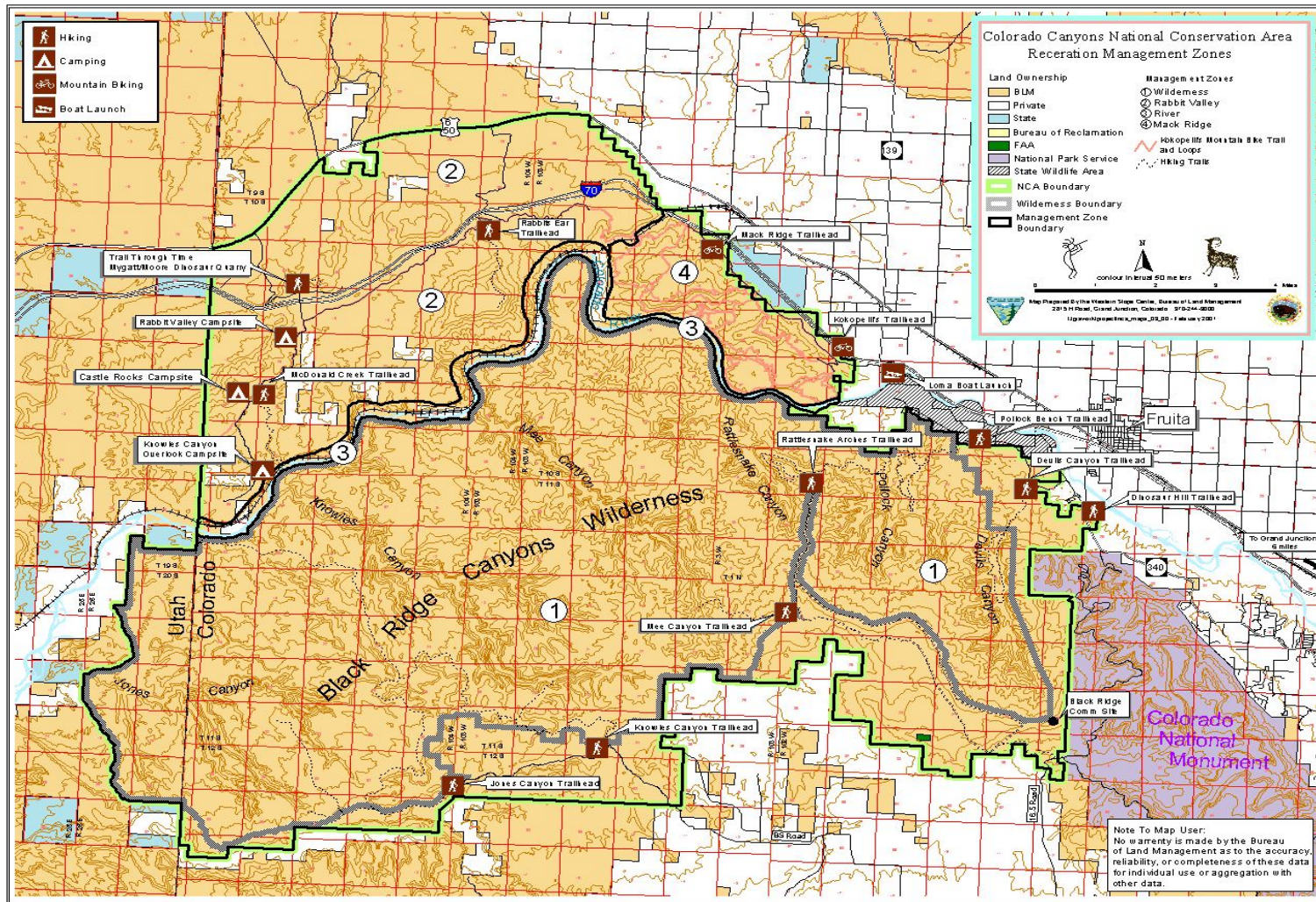
The meeting ended at 6:35 p.m.

**Advisory Council Meeting
Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area
Thursday, February 14, 2002, 3:00 p.m.
White Hall, 600 White Avenue, Suite 204
Grand Junction, CO 81501**

AGENDA

3:00-3:10	Greetings and Ground Rules	Greg Gnesios, NCA Manager Nancy Terrill, Civic Forum, Facilitator
3:10-3:20	Introductions	Group
3:20-3:40	Overview and Update	Greg Gnesios, NCA Manager Jane Ross, BLM Planner
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">●General Overview●AC meetings<ul style="list-style-type: none">●Objectives/roles●Timeline●Budget/staffing●Interagency cooperation●Staff availability for education/discussion	
3:40-4:00	Election of Chair(s)	Advisory Committee
4:00-4:35	Discussion on Budget resolution	Advisory Committee
4:35-4:45	Break	
4:45-6:00	Sub-committees	Advisory Committee Public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">●Introduction●Discussion●Sign-up	
6:00-7:00	Public Comment Period (Longer if necessary)	

Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness



Note to Map User: No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregation with other data.